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NICARAGUA - U.S.
BY PATRICIA KOZA

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY ASSURED THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE IN SECRET SESSION TUESDAY THAT AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO INSURGENTS IN NICARAGUA DOES NOT VIOLATE U.S. LAW, A KEY SENATOR SAID.

SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER R-ARIZ., CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, SAID THAT, ON THE BASIS OF WHAT CASEY TOLD THE COMMITTEE, THE CIA AID TO THE INSURGENTS DOES NOT CONTRAVENE 'THE LETTER OR THE SPIRIT" OF THE LAW THAT FORBIDS ASSISTANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OVERTHROWING THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT.

THOMAS ENDERS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, WHO TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AT THE SAME TIME, REFUSED TO PUBLICLY ANSWER POINTED QUESTIONS ABOUT NEWS REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS FINANCING INSURGENTS IN NICARAGUA.

GOLDWATER SAID HE CALLED TUESDAY'S SESSION OF HIS PANEL BECAUSE OF THE 'CONFUSION AND THE MISINTERPRETATION IN THE PRESS' OVER WHETHER THE CIA IS WORKING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LAW IN ITS "ALLEGED COVERT ACTION ACTIVITIES' AGAINST THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT IN NICARAGUA.

THE LAW IN QUESTION, ADOPTED LAST YEAR, PROHIBITS THE CIA AND THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FROM PROVIDING AID TO THE INSURGENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNSEATING THE GOVERNMENT IN NICARAGUA OR PROVOKING A MILITARY EXCHANGE BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS.

"THUS, A KEY ELEMENT OF THIS LAW RELATES TO THE PURPOSE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND NOT TO THE EXPRESSED PURPOSE OF THE RECIPIENTS OF ANY SUCH SUPPORT,' GOLDWATER SAID.

THE VETERAN HARD-LINER ADDED, 'I AM CONVINCED THAT NO SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OVERTHROWING THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA OR FOR PROVOKING A MILITARY EXCHANGE BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS.

"THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE HAS RECONFIRMED THIS TO ME TODAY, AND I AM SATISFIED THAT THE AGENCY IS NOT VIOLATING THE LETTER OR THE SPIRIT OF THE BOLAND AMENDMENT (THE LAW).

AT THE OPEN FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARING, CHAIRMAN CHARLES PERCY, R-ILL., ASSURED ENDERS THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT HIM TO PROVIDE SUCH ANSWERS IN OPEN SESSION. BUT SEVERAL DEMOCRATS QUOTED RECENT NEWS REPORTS ON THE ISSUE AND ASKED ENDERS TO REPLY.

CONTINUED

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